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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8344

INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 000256

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/18/2017

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KISL](#) [KPAL](#) [KWPG](#) [IS](#) [KU](#)

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO ARAB LEAGUE ON PREMATURE ENGAGEMENT
WITH PALESTINIAN NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT

REF: SECSTATE 17726

Classified By: Charge d,Affaires, a.i. Matt Tueller for reasons 1.4(b)
and (d).

¶1. (C) In a February 19 meeting with Ministry of Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Khaled Al-Jarallah, Charge noted U.S. caution toward the Palestinian National Unity Government (NUG) and urged Kuwait to avoid taking any especially high-level steps to engage with the NUG until the NUG had endorsed the Quartet principles. Particularly unhelpful, the Charge stressed, would be hosting a visit by Hamas official Ismail Haniyeh. Al-Jarallah responded that the Government of Kuwait (GOK) supported the Mecca Agreement and was pleased at the possibility of positive movement in the peace process.

¶2. (C) Al-Jarallah said that there was no current plan for Haniyeh to visit, despite talk of the possibility a few weeks earlier. While Haniyeh would be "welcome" to visit Kuwait, Al-Jarallah said, if he did the GOK would "do its duty" and stress the need for changes in Hamas' position toward the peace process. The GOK would bluntly say that without such change there is no chance for progress. He added that he is sure that Hamas receives the same message from other Gulf nations.

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TUELLER